

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 13-15 have been canceled and claims 16-18 have been added. The specification has been updated to make reference to the patent number of the parent application.

Independent claim 16 of the present application, as amended, differs from claim 1 of the parent patent, U.S. Patent No. 6,733,529, in that the "positioning" step does not require that the flexible strand pass "outside the knee" after "passing into the transverse hole in the opposite sidewall of the opening." In all other respects, claim 16 of the present application is the same as claim 1 of the parent patent. A terminal disclaimer is attached hereto to obviate an obviousness-type double patenting situation.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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